

# Existence of infinitely many solutions for the fractional Schrödinger- Maxwell equations <sup>\*†</sup>

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## Abstract

In this paper, by using variational methods and critical point theory, we shall mainly study the existence of infinitely many solutions for the following fractional Schrödinger-Maxwell equations

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha u + V(x)u + \phi u = f(x, u), \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3,$$

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha \phi = K_\alpha u^2 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3$$

where  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ ,  $K_\alpha = \frac{\pi^{-\alpha}\Gamma(\alpha)}{\pi^{-(3-2\alpha)/2}\Gamma((3-2\alpha)/2)}$ ,  $(-\Delta)^\alpha$  stands for the fractional Laplacian. Under some more assumptions on  $f$ , we get infinitely many solutions for the system.

**Key words** Fractional Laplacian, Schrödinger-Maxwell equations, infinitely many solutions.

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## 1 Introduction and the Main Result

In this paper, we study the fractional Schrödinger-Maxwell equations

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha u + V(x)u + \phi u = f(x, u), \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3, \quad (1.1)$$

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha \phi = K_\alpha u^2 \text{ in } \mathbb{R}^3 \quad (1.2)$$

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where  $u, \phi : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $f : \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ ,  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$ ,  $K_\alpha = \frac{\pi^{-\alpha}\Gamma(\alpha)}{\pi^{-(3-2\alpha)/2}\Gamma((3-2\alpha)/2)}$ ,  $(-\Delta)^\alpha$  stands for the fractional Laplacian. Here the fractional Laplacian  $(-\Delta)^\alpha$  with  $\alpha \in (0, 1]$  of a function  $\phi : \mathbb{R}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is defined by:

$$\mathcal{F}((-\Delta)^\alpha \phi)(\xi) = |\xi|^{2\alpha} \mathcal{F}(\phi)(\xi), \quad \forall \alpha \in (0, 1],$$

where  $\mathcal{F}$  is the Fourier transform, i.e.,

$$\mathcal{F}(\phi)(\xi) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \exp\{-2\pi i \xi \cdot x\} \phi(x) dx.$$

If  $\phi$  is smooth enough,  $(-\Delta)^\alpha$  can also be computed by the following singular integral :

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha \phi(x) = c_{3,\alpha} \text{P.V.} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \frac{\phi(x) - \phi(y)}{|x-y|^{3+2\alpha}} dy.$$

Here P.V. is the principal value and  $c_{3,\alpha}$  is a normalization constant. Such a system (1.1) is called Schrödinger-Maxwell equations or Schrödinger-Poisson equations which is obtained while looking for existence of standing waves for the fractional nonlinear Schrödinger equations interacting with an unknown electrostatic field. For a more physical background of system (1.1), we refer the reader to [1, 2] and the references therein.

When  $\alpha = 1$ , system (1.1) was first introduced by Benci and Fortunato in [1], and it has been widely studied by many authors; The case  $V \equiv 1$  or being radially symmetric, has been studied under various conditions on  $f$  in [3]-[9]; When  $V(x)$  is not a constant, the existence of infinitely many large solutions for (1.1) has been considered in [10]-[14] via the fountain theorem (cf. [15, 16].)

In system (1.1), we assume the following hypotheses on potential  $V$  and nonlinear term  $f$  :

(V)  $V \in C(\mathbb{R}^3, \mathbb{R})$ ,  $\inf_{x \in \mathbb{R}^3} V(x) \geq a_1 > 0$ , where  $a_1$  is a positive constant. Moreover,  $\lim_{|x| \rightarrow \infty} V(x) = +\infty$ .

(H<sub>1</sub>)  $f \in C(\mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{R})$ , and there exist  $c_1, c_2 > 0$ ,  $p \in (4, 2_\alpha^*)$  such that

$$|f(x, u)| \leq c_1|u| + c_2|u|^{p-1}, \quad \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^3, u \in \mathbb{R},$$

where,  $2_\alpha^* = \frac{6}{3-2\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha > \frac{3}{4}$ ,  $f(x, u)u \geq 0$  for  $u \geq 0$ .

(H<sub>2</sub>)  $\lim_{|u| \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F(x, u)}{u^4} = +\infty$  uniformly for  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , here  $F(x, u) = \int_0^u f(x, t) dt$ .

(H<sub>3</sub>) Let  $G(x, u) = \frac{1}{4}f(x, u)u - F(x, u)$ , there exist  $a_0 > 0$ , and  $g(x) \geq 0$  such that  $\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} g(x) dx < +\infty$ ,  $G(x, u) \geq -a_0 g(x)$ ,  $\forall (x, u) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}$ .

(H<sub>4</sub>)  $f(x, -u) = -f(x, u) \forall x \in \mathbb{R}^3, u \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Now, we are ready to state the main result of this paper.

**Theorem 1.1.** Assume that  $(\mathbb{V})$  and  $(\mathbb{H}_1) - (\mathbb{H}_4)$  satisfy. Then system (1.1) possesses infinitely many nontrivial solutions.

**Remark 1.1.** (i) : There are functions  $f$  satisfying the assumptions  $(\mathbb{H}_1) - (\mathbb{H}_4)$ , for example (1) :  $f(x, u) = 4u^3 \ln(u^2 + 1) + \frac{2u^5}{(u^2+1)}$ , then  $a_0 = 0$ ,  $(\mathbb{H}_3)$  is satisfied; (2) :  $f(x, u) = e^{-\sum_{i=1}^3 |x_i|} u + |u|^{p-2}u$ ,  $p \in (4, 2^*)$ ,  $\alpha > \frac{3}{4}$ , then  $a_0 = \frac{r_0^2}{4}$ ,  $g(x) = e^{-\sum_{i=1}^3 |x_i|}$ ,  $r_0 = \left(\frac{p}{p-4}\right)^{1/(p-2)} + 1$ ,  $(\mathbb{H}_3)$  is satisfied.

(ii) : the assumption  $(\mathbb{H}_3)$  is weaker than the assumptions  $(f_4)$  in paper [12] and  $(f3')$  in paper [14].

## 2 Variational settings and preliminary results

Now, let's introduce some notations. For any  $1 \leq r < \infty$ ,  $L^r(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is the usual Lebesgue space with the norm

$$\|u\|_{L^r} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |u(x)|^r dx \right)^{\frac{1}{r}}.$$

The fractional order Sobolev space:

$$H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) = \left\{ u \in L^2(\mathbb{R}^3) : \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^{2\alpha} \hat{u}^2 + \hat{u}^2) d\xi < \infty \right\},$$

where  $\hat{u} = \mathcal{F}(u)$ , The norm is defined by

$$\|u\|_{H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^{2\alpha} \hat{u}^2 + \hat{u}^2) d\xi \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

The spaces  $D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is defined as the completion of  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$  under the norms

$$\|u\|_{D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^{2\alpha} \hat{u}^2 d\xi) \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u(x)|^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Note that, by Plancherel's theorem we have  $\|u\|_2 = \|\hat{u}\|_2$ , and

$$\begin{aligned} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u(x)|^2 dx &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\widehat{(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u}(\xi))^2 d\xi = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\xi|^\alpha \hat{u}(\xi))^2 d\xi \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |\xi|^{2\alpha} \hat{u}^2 d\xi < \infty, \quad \forall u \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3). \end{aligned}$$

It follows that

$$\|u\|_{H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)} = \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u(x)|^2 + u^2) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

In our problem, we work in the space defined by

$$E := \left\{ u \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) \mid \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u(x)|^2 + V(x)u^2) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} < \infty \right\}. \quad (2.1)$$

Thus,  $E$  is a Hilbert space with the inner product

$$(u, v)_E := \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} ((-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} u(x) \cdot (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}} v(x) + V(x)uv) dx.$$

and its norm is  $\|u\| = (u, u)^{\frac{1}{2}}$ . Obviously, under the assumptions  $(\mathbb{V})$ ,  $\|u\|_E \equiv \|u\|_{H^\alpha}$ .

**Lemma 2.1** (see [17] Lemma 2.2 and [18]).  $H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is continuously embedded into  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)$  for  $p \in [2, 2_\alpha^*]$ ; and compactly embedded into  $L_{loc}^p(\mathbb{R}^N)$  for  $p \in [2, 2_\alpha^*)$  where  $2_\alpha^* = \frac{6}{3 - 2\alpha}$ . Therefore, there exists a positive constant  $C_p$  such that

$$\|u\|_p \leq C_p \|u\|_{H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)}.$$

**Lemma 2.2** (see [19]). Under the assumption  $(\mathbb{V})$ , the embedding  $E$  is compactly embedded into  $L^p(\mathbb{R}^3)$  for  $p \in [2, 2_\alpha^*)$ .

**Lemma 2.3** (see [20]). For  $1 < p < \infty$  and  $0 < \alpha < N/p$ , we have

$$\|u\|_{L^{\frac{pN}{N-p\alpha}}(\mathbb{R}^N)} \leq B \|(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u\|_{L^p(\mathbb{R}^N)} \quad (2.2)$$

with best constant

$$B = 2^{-\alpha} \pi^{-\alpha/2} \frac{\Gamma((N-\alpha)/2)}{\Gamma((N+\alpha)/2)} \left( \frac{\Gamma(N)}{\Gamma(N/2)} \right)^{\alpha/N}.$$

**Lemma 2.4.** For any  $u \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and for any  $h \in D^{-\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , there exists a unique solution  $\phi = ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} h \in D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$  of the equation

$$(-\Delta)^\alpha \phi + u^2 \phi = h,$$

(being  $D^{-\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  the dual space of  $D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ). Moreover, for every  $u \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and for every  $h, g \in D^{-\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ ,

$$\langle h, ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} g \rangle = \langle g, ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} h \rangle \quad (2.3)$$

where  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle$  denotes the duality pairing between  $D^{-\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and  $D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$ .

**Proof.** If  $u \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , then by Hölder inequality and (2.2)

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^N} u^2 \phi^2 dx \leq \|u\|_{2p}^2 \|\phi\|_{2q}^2 \leq B^2 \|u\|_{2p}^2 \|\phi\|_{D^\alpha}^2, \quad (2.4)$$

where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ ,  $q = \frac{N}{N-2\alpha}$ ,  $2q = 2_\alpha^*$ . Thus  $(\int |(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} \phi|^2 + \int u^2 \phi^2)^{1/2}$  is a norm in  $D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$  equivalent to  $\|\phi\|_{D^\alpha}$ . Hence, by the application of Lax-Milgram Lemma, we

obtain the existence part. For every  $u \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and for every  $h, g \in D^{-\alpha}(\mathbb{R}^N)$ , we have  $\phi_g = ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} g$ ,  $\phi_h = ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} h$ . Hence,

$$\begin{aligned} \langle h, ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} g \rangle &= \int h ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} g dx \\ &= \int h \phi_g dx = \int ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2) \phi_h \phi_g dx \\ &= \int ((-\Delta)^\alpha \phi_h + u^2 \phi_h) \phi_g dx = \int ((-\Delta)^\alpha \phi_g + u^2 \phi_g) \phi_h dx \\ &= \int g \phi_h dx = \int g ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} h dx = \langle g, ((-\Delta)^\alpha + u^2)^{-1} h \rangle. \end{aligned}$$

So, we get (2.3).  $\square$

**Lemma 2.5** (see [21]). *Let  $f$  be a function in  $C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^N)$  and let  $0 < \alpha < n$ . Then, with*

$$c_\alpha \doteq \pi^{-\alpha/2} \Gamma(-\alpha/2), \quad (2.5)$$

$$c_\alpha (\xi^{-\alpha} \widehat{f}(\xi))^\vee(x) = c_{n-\alpha} \int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |x-y|^{\alpha-n} f(y) dy. \quad (2.6)$$

**Lemma 2.6.** *For every  $u \in H^\alpha$  there exists a unique  $\phi = \phi(u) \in D^\alpha$  which solves equation (1.2). Furthermore,  $\phi(u)$  is given by*

$$\phi(u)(x) = \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x-y|^{2\alpha-3} u^2(y) dy. \quad (2.7)$$

As a consequence, the map  $\Phi : u \in H^\alpha \mapsto \phi(u) \in D^\alpha$  is of class  $C^1$  and

$$[\Phi(u)]'(v)(x) = 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x-y|^{2\alpha-3} u(y) v(y) dy, \quad \forall u, v \in H^\alpha. \quad (2.8)$$

**Proof.** The existence and uniqueness part follows by Lemma 2.4. By Lemma 2.5 and the Fourier transform of equation (1.2), the representation formula (2.7) holds for  $u \in C_0^\infty(\mathbb{R}^3)$ ; by density it can be extended for any  $u \in H^\alpha$ . The representation formula (2.8) is obvious.  $\square$

System (1.1) and (1.2) are the Euler-Lagrange equations corresponding to the functional  $J : H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) \times D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is

$$J(u, \phi) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \left( |(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} u(x)|^2 + V(x) u^2 - \frac{1}{2} |(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2} \phi(x)|^2 + K_\alpha \phi u^2 \right) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(x, u) dx,$$

where  $F(x, t) = \int_0^t f(x, s) ds$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{R}$ .

Evidently, the action functional  $J$  belongs to  $C^1(H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) \times D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3), \mathbb{R})$  and the partial derivatives in  $(u, \phi)$  are given, for  $\xi \in H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)$  and  $\eta \in D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , by

$$\begin{aligned}\left\langle \frac{\partial J}{\partial u}(u, \phi), \xi \right\rangle &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} ((-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}u(x)(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\xi(x) + V(x)u\xi + K_\alpha\phi u\xi) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f(x, u)\xi(x)dx, \\ \left\langle \frac{\partial J}{\partial \phi}(u, \phi), \eta \right\rangle &= \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (-(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\phi(x)(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}\eta(x) + K_\alpha u^2\eta) dx.\end{aligned}$$

Thus, we have the following result:

**Proposition 2.1.** *The pair  $(u, \phi)$  is a weak solution of system (1.1) and (1.2) if and only if it is a critical point of  $J$  in  $H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) \times D^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3)$ .*

So, we can consider the functional  $J : H^\alpha(\mathbb{R}^3) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  defined by  $J(u) = J(u, \phi(u))$ . After multiplying (1.2) by  $\phi(u)$  and integration by parts, we obtain

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |(-\Delta)^{\alpha/2}\phi(u)|^2 dx = K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \phi(u)u^2 dx.$$

Therefore, the reduced functional takes the form

$$J(u) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}u(x)|^2 + V(x)u^2) dx + \frac{1}{4}K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^2\phi(u) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(x, u) dx. \quad (2.9)$$

**Lemma 2.7.** *Assume that there exist  $c_1, c_2 > 0$  and  $p > 1$  such that*

$$|f(s)| = c_1|s| + c_2|s|^{p-1}, \quad \forall s \in \mathbb{R}. \quad (2.10)$$

*Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- i)  $(u, \phi) \in (H^\alpha \cap L^p) \times D^\alpha$  is a solution of the system (1.1) – (1.2);
- ii)  $u \in H^\alpha \cap L^p$  is a critical point of  $J$  and  $\phi = \phi(u)$ .

**Proof.** By the assumption (2.10), the Nemitsky operator  $u \in H^\alpha \cap L^p \mapsto F(x, u) \in L^1$  is of class  $C^1$ . Hence, by Lemma 2.6, for every  $u, v \in H^\alpha$

$$\begin{aligned}J'(u)[v] &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}u(x)(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}v(x) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)uv dx \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} uv \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x-y|^{2\alpha-3}u^2(y) dy dx \\ &\quad + \frac{1}{2}K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} u^2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |x-y|^{2\alpha-3}u(y)v(y) dy dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f(x, u)v dx \\ &= \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}u(x)(-\Delta)^{\frac{\alpha}{2}}v(x) dx + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} V(x)uv dx \\ &\quad + K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} uv\phi(u) dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} f(x, u)v dx.\end{aligned}$$

By Fubini-Tonelli's Theorem, we can obtain the conclusion.  $\square$

If  $1 \leq p < \infty$  and  $a, b \geq 0$ , then

$$(a + b)^p \leq 2^{p-1}(a^p + b^p). \quad (2.11)$$

From (1.2) and (2.2), for any  $u \in E$  using Hölder inequality we have

$$\|\phi(u)\|_{D^\alpha}^2 = K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \phi(u) u^2 dx \leq K_\alpha \|\phi(u)\|_q \|u\|_{2p}^2 \leq C \|\phi(u)\|_{D^\alpha} \|u\|_{2p}^2.$$

where  $\frac{1}{p} + \frac{1}{q} = 1$ ,  $q = 2^*_\alpha = \frac{6}{3-2\alpha}$ ,  $\alpha > \frac{3}{4}$ . Here and subsequently,  $C$  denotes an universal positive constant. This and lemma 2.2 implies that

$$\|\phi(u)\|_{D^\alpha} \leq C \|u\|_{2p}^2 \leq C \|u\|_E^2, \quad (2.12)$$

$$\int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \phi(u) u^2 dx \leq C \|u\|_{2p}^4 \leq C \|u\|_E^4. \quad (2.13)$$

**Lemma 2.8.** Assume that a sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset E$ ,  $u_n \rightharpoonup u$  in  $E$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\{u_n\}$  be a bounded sequence. Then

$$\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\phi(u_n) u_n - \phi(u) u)(u_n - u) dx \right| \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

**Proof.** Let  $\{u_n\}$  be a sequence satisfying the assumptions  $u_n \rightharpoonup u$  in  $E$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\{u_n\}$  is bounded. Lemma 2.2 implies that  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^r(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , where  $2 \leq r < 2^*_\alpha$ , and  $u_n \rightarrow u$  for a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . Hence  $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|u_n\|_r < \infty$  and  $\|u\|_r$  is finite. By Hölder inequality, (2.11), (2.12) and (2.4)

$$\begin{aligned} & \left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\phi(u_n) u_n - \phi(u) u)(u_n - u) dx \right| \\ & \leq \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\phi(u_n) u_n - \phi(u) u)^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \left( \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (u_n - u)^2 dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \\ & \leq \left( 2 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (|\phi(u_n) u_n|^2 + |\phi(u) u|^2) dx \right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u_n - u\|_2 \\ & \leq C (\|u_n\|_E^6 + \|u\|_E^6)^{\frac{1}{2}} \|u_n - u\|_2 \rightarrow 0, \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned} \quad (2.14)$$

□

### 3 Proof of Theorem 1.1

We say that  $J \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$  satisfies the  $(C)_c$ -condition if any sequence  $\{u_n\}$  such that

$$J(u_n) \rightarrow c, \quad \|J'(u_n)\|(1 + \|u_n\|) \rightarrow 0$$

has a convergent subsequence, where  $X$  is a Banach space.

**Lemma 3.1.** Assume that (V) and  $(\mathbb{H}_1) - (\mathbb{H}_4)$  satisfy. Then any sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset E$  satisfying

$$J(u_n) \rightarrow c > 0, \quad \langle J'(u_n), u_n \rangle \rightarrow 0,$$

is bounded in  $E$ . Moreover,  $\{u_n\}$  contains a converge subsequence.

**Proof.** To prove the boundedness of  $\{u_n\}$ , arguing by contradiction, suppose that  $\|u_n\| \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ . By  $(\mathbb{H}_3)$  for sufficiently large  $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\begin{aligned} c + 1 &\geq J(u_n) - \frac{1}{4}\langle J'(u_n), u_n \rangle \\ &= \frac{1}{4}\|u_n\|^2 + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} G(x, u_n) dx \\ &\geq \frac{1}{4}\|u_n\|^2 - a_0 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} g(x) dx \rightarrow +\infty. \end{aligned}$$

Thus  $\sup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \|u_n\| < \infty$ . i.e.  $\{u_n\}$  is a bounded sequence.

Now we shall prove  $\{u_n\}$  contains a subsequence, without loss of generality, by Eberlein-Shmulyan theorem (see for instance in [22]), passing to a subsequence if necessary, there exists a  $u \in E$  such that  $u_n \rightharpoonup u$  in  $E$ , again by Lemma 2.2,  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $L^s(\mathbb{R}^3)$ , for  $2 \leq s < 2_\alpha^*$  and  $u_n \rightarrow u$  a.e.  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ . By  $(\mathbb{H}_1)$  and using Hölder inequality we have

$$\begin{aligned} &\left| \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f(x, u_n) - f(x, u))(u_n - u) dx \right| \\ &\leq \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} |c_1(|u_n| + |u|) + c_2(|u_n|^{p-1} + |u|^{p-1})| |u_n - u| dx \\ &\leq c_1(\|u_n\|_2 + \|u\|_2) \|u_n - u\|_2 + c_2(\|u_n\|_p^{p-1} + \|u\|_p^{p-1}) \|u_n - u\|_p \\ &\rightarrow 0, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $J \in C^1(E)$ , we have  $J'(u_n) \rightarrow J'(u)$  in  $E^*$ . i.e.

$$\langle J'(u_n) - J'(u), u_n - u \rangle \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty.$$

This together with Lemma 2.8 implies

$$\begin{aligned} \|u_n - u\|^2 &= \langle J'(u_n) - J'(u), u_n - u \rangle - K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (\phi(u_n)u_n - \phi(u)u)(u_n - u) dx \\ &\quad + \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} (f(x, u_n) - f(x, u))(u_n - u) dx \rightarrow 0, \text{ as } n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

That is  $u_n \rightarrow u$  in  $E$ . □

**Lemma 3.2.** Suppose that assumptions (V),  $(\mathbb{H}_1)$  and  $(\mathbb{H}_2)$  satisfy, for any finite dimensional subspace  $\tilde{E} \subset E$ , there holds

$$J(u) \rightarrow -\infty, \quad \|u\| \rightarrow \infty, \quad u \in \tilde{E}. \tag{3.1}$$

**Proof.** Arguing indirectly, assume that for some sequence  $\{u_n\} \subset \tilde{E}$  with  $\|u_n\| \rightarrow \infty$ , there is  $M > 0$  such that  $J(u_n) \geq -M, \forall n \in \mathbb{N}$ . Set  $v_n = \frac{u_n}{\|u_n\|}$ , then  $\|v_n\| = 1$ . Passing to a subsequence, we may assume that  $v_n \rightharpoonup v$  in  $E$ . Since  $\dim \tilde{E} < \infty$ , then  $v_n \rightarrow v \in \tilde{E}$ ,  $v_n(x) \rightarrow v(x)$  a.e. on  $x \in \mathbb{R}^3$ , and so  $\|v\| = 1$ . Let  $\Omega := \{x \in \mathbb{R}^3 : v(x) \neq 0\}$ , then  $\text{meas}(\Omega) > 0$  and for a.e.  $x \in \Omega$ , we have  $\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} |u_n(x)| \rightarrow \infty$ . It follows from (2.9), (2.13) that

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(x, u_n) dx}{\|u_n\|^4} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{2\|u_n\|^2 + K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \phi(u_n) u_n^2 dx - 4J(u_n)}{\|u_n\|^4} \leq C. \quad (3.2)$$

But by the non-negative of  $F$ ,  $((\mathbb{H}_2)$  and Fadous Lemma, for large  $n$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{4 \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(x, u_n) dx}{\|u_n\|^4} &\geq \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \frac{4F(x, u_n)v_n^4}{u_n^4} dx \\ &\geq \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \int_{\Omega} \frac{4F(x, u_n)v_n^4}{u_n^4} dx \\ &\geq \int_{\Omega} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F(x, u_n)v_n^4}{u_n^4} dx \\ &= \int_{\Omega} \liminf_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{F(x, u_n)}{u_n^4} [\chi_{\Omega}(x)] v_n^4 dx \rightarrow \infty, \quad n \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts to (3.2).  $\square$

**Corollary 3.1.** *Under assumptions  $(\mathbb{V})$ ,  $(\mathbb{H}_1)$  and  $(\mathbb{H}_2)$ , for any finite dimensional subspace  $\tilde{E} \subset E$ , there is  $R = R(\tilde{E}) > 0$  such that*

$$J(u) \leq 0, \quad \forall u \in \tilde{E}, \|u\| \geq R. \quad (3.3)$$

Let  $\{e_j\}$  is an orthonormal basis of  $E$  and define  $X_j = \mathbb{R}e_j$ ,

$$Y_k = \bigoplus_{j=1}^k X_j, \quad Z_k = \bigoplus_{j=k+1}^{\infty} X_j, \quad k \in \mathbb{N}. \quad (3.4)$$

**Lemma 3.3.** *Under assumptions  $(\mathbb{V})$ , for  $2 \leq r < 2_\alpha^*$ , we have*

$$\beta_k(r) = \sup_{u \in Z_k, \|u\|=1} \|u\|_r \rightarrow 0, \quad k \rightarrow \infty. \quad (3.5)$$

**Proof.** Since the embedding from  $E$  into  $L^r(\mathbb{R}^3)$  is compact, then Lemma 3.3 can be proved by a similar way as Lemma 3.8 in [15].  $\square$

By Lemma 3.3, we can choose an integer  $m \geq 1$  such that

$$\|u\|_2^2 \leq \frac{1}{2c_1} \|u\|^2, \quad \|u\|_p^p \leq \frac{p}{4c_2} \|u\|^p, \quad \forall u \in Z_m. \quad (3.6)$$

**Lemma 3.4.** Suppose that assumptions  $(\mathbb{V})$  and  $(\mathbb{H}_1)$  are satisfied, there exist constants  $\rho, \delta > 0$  such that  $J|_{\partial B_\rho \cap Z_m} \geq \delta > 0$ .

**Proof.** By  $(\mathbb{H}_1)$ , we have

$$F(x, u) \leq \frac{c_1}{2}u^2 + \frac{c_2}{p}|u|^p, \quad \forall (x, u) \in \mathbb{R}^3 \times \mathbb{R}.$$

Hence, by (2.9) and (3.6), we have

$$\begin{aligned} J(u) &= \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 + \frac{1}{4}K_\alpha \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} \phi(u)u^2 dx - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(x, u) dx \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 - \int_{\mathbb{R}^3} F(x, u) dx \\ &\geq \frac{1}{2}\|u\|^2 - \frac{c_1}{2}\|u\|_2^2 - \frac{c_2}{p}\|u\|_p^p \\ &\geq \frac{1}{4}(\|u\|^2 - \|u\|^p). \end{aligned}$$

Hence for any given  $0 < \rho < 1$ , let  $\delta = \frac{1}{4}(\rho^2 - \rho^p)$ , then  $J|_{\partial B_\rho \cap Z_m} \geq \delta > 0$ . This complete the proof.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.5** (see[23]). Let  $X$  be an infinite dimensional Banach space,  $X = Y \oplus Z$ , where  $Y$  is finite dimensional. If  $J \in C^1(X, \mathbb{R})$  satisfies  $(C)_c$ -condition for all  $c > 0$ , and

(J1)  $J(0) = 0, J(-u) = J(u)$  for all  $u \in X$ ;

(J2) there exist constants  $\rho, \delta > 0$  such that  $J|_{\partial B_\rho \cap Z_m} \geq \delta > 0$ ;

(J3) for any finite dimensional subspace  $\tilde{E} \subset E$ , there is  $R = R(\tilde{E}) > 0$  such that  $J(u) \leq 0, \forall u \in \tilde{E} \setminus B_R$ ;

then  $J$  possesses an unbounded sequence of critical values.

**Proof of Theorem 1.1.** Let  $X = E, Y = Y_m$  and  $Z = Z_m$ . By Lemmas 3.2, 3.4 and Corollary 3.1, all conditions of Lemma 3.5 are satisfied. Thus, problem (1.1) and (1.2) possesses infinitely many nontrivial solutions.  $\square$

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